

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application.

Applicants respectfully submit with this Request for Reconsideration an accurate English translation of priority document JP2001-034354 ("JP354"), filed in the Japanese Patent Office on February 9, 2001. The present application claims priority to JP354 under 35 U.S.C. §119.

I. Rejection under §102(e)

Claims 1-9 and 11-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0046067 A1 to Taniguchi ("067 publication"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, the present application claims priority to JP354 under 35 U.S.C. §119. JP354 was filed on February 9, 2001. Therefore, the effective filing date of the present application antedates the U.S. filing date of the cited 067 publication, filed May 16, 2001. Applicants respectfully submit that for this reason, the 067 publication is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

For at least the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

II. Rejection under §103(a)

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the 067 publication in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0185877 A1 to Asthana et al. ("877 publication"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, the 067 publication is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). Therefore the combination cited by the Office Action is improper.


For at least the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
English Translation of
JP2001-034354

JAO:JMH/fpw

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